

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, comprising a body having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, and a distal end, which is adapted to be inserted into a bone, said body including a plurality of spaced slits disposed about said periphery, each of said slits having a length, wherein a distance x
5 between two adjacent slits at a first location along the length of each of the slits is smaller than a distance y between said two adjacent slits at a second location along the length of each of the slits.
2. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said slits each comprise an end, said first location being proximate to an end of each of the adjacent slits and the second location being in a middle region of each of the adjacent slits.
3. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein each of said slits further comprises an angled surface at an end thereof.
4. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein each of said slits further comprises an angled surface at each end thereof, each of said angled surfaces extending depthwise into a wall forming said body.
5. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said body comprises a generally cylindrical body having an outer circumferential wall defining an inner lumen.
6. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced slits are generally parallel to said longitudinal axis.

7. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced slits each lie at an acute angle relative to said longitudinal axis.

8. The apparatus as recited in Claim 7, wherein said acute angle is between 0 and 45 degrees.

9. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced slits comprises at least six slits.

10. The apparatus as recited in Claim 7, wherein said plurality of spaced slits is sufficient in number such that when an axial length of said body is shortened, thereby causing a plurality of ribs which are disposed between each of said plurality of slits to each expand radially to form respective petals, each of said
5 petals overlap adjacent ones thereof.

11. Apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, comprising a body having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, and a distal end, which is adapted to be inserted into a bone, said body including a plurality of spaced slits disposed about said periphery, each of said slits having a length and an angled surface at an
5 end thereof, extending depthwise into a wall forming said body.

12. The apparatus as recited in Claim 11, wherein each of said slits has an angled surface at each end thereof, extending depthwise into said wall.

13. The apparatus as recited in Claim 11, wherein a distance x between two adjacent slits at a first location along the length of each one of the adjacent slits is smaller than a distance y between said two adjacent slits at a second location along the length of each one of said adjacent slits.

14. The apparatus as recited in Claim 13, wherein said first location is proximate to an end of each of the slits and the second location is in a middle region of each of said adjacent slits.

15. A method of fabricating an apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, comprising:

- making a pattern of a bone anchor using a bio-compatible material;
- 5 disposing a plurality of spaced slits across a width of said pattern, adjacent ones of said slits being closer together at a first location along a length thereof and being farther apart at a second location along said length; and
- forming said pattern into an anchor body.

16. The method as recited in Claim 15, wherein said anchor body is a generally cylindrical body.

17. The method as recited in Claim 15, wherein said first location is near an end of each of said respective adjacent slits and said second location is in a middle region of each of said respective adjacent slits.

18. The method as recited in Claim 15, and further comprising a step of forming an angled surface extending depthwise into said pattern at an end of each of said spaced slits.

19. The method as recited in Claim 18, wherein an angled surface is formed at each end of each of said spaced slits.

20. The method as recited in Claim 15, wherein a cutting wheel is used to form said spaced slits.

21. A method of fabricating an apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, comprising:

making a pattern of a bone anchor using a bio-compatible material;

forming a plurality of spaced slits across a width of said pattern, such that

5 an end of each of said slits includes an angled surface extending depthwise into said pattern; and

fabricating said pattern into an anchor body.

22. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein said forming step further comprises forming an angled surface extending depthwise into said pattern at each end of each of said slits.

23. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein said forming step further comprises forming said slits such that adjacent ones of said slits are closer together at a first location along a length thereof and farther apart at a second location along said length.